WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today questioned top military and Administration officials at a House Armed Services Committee hearing on the future of U.S. nuclear policy in light of the recent Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) and the signing of the New START Treaty. Rep. Sanchez, who chairs the subcommittee with jurisdiction over counter-proliferation and other security issues, was specifically interested in how the NPR will strengthen President Obama's ability to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism and the efforts of rogue states to obtain nuclear materials.

"The biggest threat facing our country today is having nuclear materials fall into the hands of terrorist organizations," said Rep. Sanchez. "But history has shown that building up our nuclear stockpile has not deterred al Qaeda, Iran, or North Korea from trying to gain nuclear capabilities. What we need to do is take smart steps to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to our enemies and secure vulnerable nuclear materials from those who want to harm us."

Rep. Sanchez also asked for, and received, assurance from military experts that the operation of U.S. nuclear forces would not be compromised or jeopardized by the New START Treaty with Russia.

"It is also important to note that America still has a very robust nuclear arsenal under this treaty," Rep. Sanchez continued. "We're taking concrete steps to align our nuclear policy with a new generation of security threats. I feel like I received sufficient assurance that our country will be more, not less, secure under these new initiatives."

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez has served as a member of the House Armed Services Committee since first entering Congress in 1997. She is currently the highest ranking female on the Committee and serves as Chairwoman of the Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee. As Chairwoman, Rep. Sanchez's top priority is preparing our Armed Forces for a new generation of security challenges, including emerging terrorist threats and nuclear proliferation.

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